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Three Embarcadero Ctr.  
4th FloorSan Francisco  
California 94111T: 415-217-6000  
F: 415-434-0646Austin, TX  
San Jose, CA  
Newport Beach, CA

skjerven morill  
macpherson LLP

Docket No.: M-9727 US

July 24, 2002

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Applicants: Robert J. Small and Xiaowei Shang

Assignee: EKC Technology, Inc.

Title: Chemical-Mechanical Planarization Using Ozone

Serial No.: 09/783,069

Examiner: Le, Thao P.

Docket No.: **M-9727 US** Filed: February 13, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2818

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents in the above-identified application:

- (1) Return Receipt Postcard;
- (2) This Transmittal Letter (in duplicate); and
- (3) Response to Office Action.



No additional fee is required.



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Respectfully submitted,

*K. Alison de Runtz*  
K. Alison de Runtz  
Attorney of Record  
Reg. No. 37,119



#1B/PRESERVE  
M 3062  
C. READING

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Robert J. Small and Xiaowei Shang  
Assignee: EKC Technology, Inc.  
Title: Chemical-Mechanical Planarization Using Ozone  
Serial No.: 09/783,069 Filing Date: February 13, 2001  
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San Francisco, California  
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AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to a non-final office action mailed June 5, 2002 and setting a shortened statutory period for response that expires on September 5, 2002. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Remarks

The Examiner's indication that all of the information submitted with Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement of December 18, 2001 has been considered is acknowledged and appreciated.

The Examiner acknowledged Applicants' election of Group II, but failed to acknowledge that it was an election with traverse. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement was requested. The Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider the restriction requirement, as previously requested, in view of Applicant's election with traverse.

Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,198 to Grieger et al. (hereinafter, simply "Grieger"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Grieger fails to teach or suggest a method of planarizing a surface by directing ozone gas onto the surface. Grieger simply teaches a method of washing a substrate, which method is